

INCREASED BOOK DUTY AND FREE PLATES.

The following is the text of a petition with which a committee of the Employing Printers' Association of this city recently waited upon the Ministers of Finance and Customs:—

Your memorialists respectfully request that the clauses enumerated herewith in the tariff, relating to books and printing, be changed to read as follows:—

300—33a—Books, printed periodicals and pamphlets, being foreign reprints of British or foreign authors' works, not elsewhere specified, nor blank account books, nor copy-books, nor books to be written or drawn upon, 6 cents per lb. and 15 per cent. ad valorem.

300—33b—Books, all other printed, including art books, complete or in parts, educational books used in schools, colleges or universities, medical text or medical reference books, encyclopedias, dictionaries or atlases, whether the works be foreign reprints or not of British or foreign authors, not elsewhere specified, 15 per cent. ad valorem.

301—35a—Bibles, prayer books, psalm and hymn books, 5 per cent. ad valorem.

302—34a—British copyright books, reprints of, 6 cents per lb. and 15 per cent. ad valorem, and in addition thereto 12½ per cent. ad valorem.

Subscription books other than those in clause 300—33b, to be rated at one-half the published price, 6 cents per lb. and 15 per cent. ad valorem.

303—13c—Advertising pamphlets, pictures and pictorial show cards, illustrated advertising periodicals, illustrated price lists, advertising calendars, advertising almanacs, tailors' and mantlemakers' fashion plates, and all chromos, chromotypes, oleographs, photographs, and other card pictures or artistic work of similar kinds, produced by any process other than hand painting or drawing, whether for business or advertising purposes or not, printed or stamped on paper, cardboard, or other material. Bank notes, bonds, bills of exchange, cheques, promissory notes, drafts, and all similar work unsigned, and bill heads, envelopes, receipts, cards, and other commercial blank forms, printed or lithographed, or printed from steel or copper or other plates, 10 cents per lb. and 30 per cent. ad valorem.

304—16c—All other printed matter not elsewhere specified, 35 per cent. ad valorem.

305—90b—Labels for fruits, vegetables, meat, fish, confectionery, and other goods, also tickets, posters, advertising bills and folders, 20 cents per lb. and 30 per cent. ad valorem.

Our experience during the past year, and the fact that the United States Congress has passed a Copyright Act which forces the typesetting of all books in that country if they desire copyright, and that the circulation of a large number of these books in Canada is so small, as to make it impracticable and unprofitable to do the typesetting here, we would recommend that stereo plates and electro plates of books, and moulds of same (328-4526) be admitted free.

Also to further encourage the manufacture of books in Canada, that the following articles be placed on the free list, when imported for bookbinders' use only—bookbinders' cloth, strawboard, millboard, wire; all of which articles are not manufactured here, with the

exception of strawboard. The strawboard manufactured here is only in thinner sheets than 30's. being principally used in box-making.

We believe if the above recommendations are carried out, that it will largely increase the business of book making in this country, which means an increased production in our paper mills, our printing presses, and our book binderies—thus largely benefiting three distinct branches of the business.

The committee in charge of this petition was made up of Messrs. A. F. Rutter (chairman), W. A. Sheppard, James Murray, Daniel Rose. It thus represented in its make-up the leading interests included in the membership of the Employing Printers' Association, that is, printing, job printing, book-binding and publishing. Holding it to be a fact that, in both large and small jobs the work of these industries was drifting out of the country, the Association appointed the above-named gentlemen a committee to overhaul the tariff, in order to determine what changes should be recommended in it for the keeping of the work here. The foregoing petition is the result of their work.

The increased duty on foreign and British reprints of books is what mainly concerns the book-sellers. Already the duty on these is high, but the Employing Printers consider that the publishing, book-binding and paper-making interests of the country will be greatly benefited by the increase recommended, that the interests of journeymen printers will be served by it, and that the book trade of the country will be unaffected by it. They claim that the plant of Canada for printing and publishing, has gone beyond the demand that the publishers in the present circumstances of the tariff can get hold of. They therefore ask an increased duty on foreign reprints and a removal of the duty on materials not produced in this country. Such materials are cloth, mill-board, straw-board, wire, and certain kinds of genuine leathers. The difficulty of distinguishing the leathers in question from other leathers has led the committee virtually to drop the part of its prayer relating to leathers. They also ask that the duty on electro and stereotype plates be removed, although these are produced in this country, and although the same association a year ago asked that a duty be put on such plates. Their petition for a duty on plates was a year ago accompanied by one for an advanced duty on printed sheets. The duty was raised on plates but not on sheets, so that a premium was put on printed sheets. The Employing Printers prefer that plates should be free rather than that they should bear a duty not in proportion to that on printed sheets. The importation of printed sheets takes even the press work out of the hands of our printers. Consequently a duty of 6c. on sheets is considered to be in the interests of journeymen printers.

To the objection that the changes proposed by the Employing Printers would increase the price of many books which would not be produced in this country, they answer

that they have exempted the most of these books in the clause reserving art books, medical reference works, atlases, encyclopedias, educational works, etc.. But the cheap editions of the standard English writers as Dickens, Scott, Thackeray, etc., are not likely to be produced here. On some of these works it is claimed that the copyright having expired, the English can get out editions as cheap as the United States editions, and as English editions of English writers are not foreign reprints, the duty on them will remain what it is, 15 per cent. That argument of course does not dispose of the matter completely by any means, as copyright has not expired on all the standard English works, the Canadians are prejudiced against two-column matter, and English publishers will not cut each other's throats as United States publishers will.

With free plates and 6c. extra on reprints, they hold that a big stimulus will be given to production in paper, binding and press-work. A United States publisher who sees room in this country for the sale of two thousand volumes of any paper-covered edition, would be debarred by the extra 6c. a pound from sending in the books, but would be encouraged by the absence of duty on plates to send plates in. If he had sent in the books no industry in this country would have been the better of them, but by sending in the plates he contributes to the prosperity of our paper-makers, binders and press-workers.

PREJUDICE AND THE FIRST COPYING-PRESS.

The copying press is one of the most valuable aids to business men ever invented, but nevertheless when it was first introduced it met with most determined opposition. The inventor was James Watt, the famous discoverer of the application of steam, and in a recent inaugural address before the University of Glasgow, Prof. Archibald Barr said: We need not be surprised to find that Watt's copying process, though brought out practically in its present state of perfection, found little favor at first with many business men; but it is curious now, after the invention has for more than 100 years been almost indispensable to the class of men who then resented its introduction, to read of the bitterness of the opposition which he met with. The fear that "it would lead to the increase of forgery" ran so high that on one occasion when Smeaton and Boulton (Watt's partner) were sitting in a London coffee house, they heard a gentleman exclaiming against the copying machine, and "wishing the inventor was hanged and the machines all burnt." No one could attempt to estimate the value to the world of this single invention, and still comparatively few people now know to whose labors and knowledge they owe the boon.

Work can always be found in a store without double-million microscope.